

## THE MONCRIEFF BATTERY.

**Not a More Gun-Carriage—"A Fortification in Itself"—Explanation of the Principle and Operation of the Battery.**

From the London Spectator, Oct 24.

Those who had never heard anything of the Moncrieff Battery until within the last few months, and who have only half considered the broad questions which this solution of one side of the fortification problem opens out, are probably wondering why so much fuss is being made about a gun-carriage. Those who have been interested in the invention during the ten years of its incubation have for their parts been inclined rather to wonder why a fuss has not been made about it before. Perhaps the British public will come to wonder at these last before the invention is done with; and then not to wonder, when they remember the difficulties which beset the introduction of a new invention and the obstructions which oppose it. Without pausing now to examine, on the one hand, the causes which interfere with the ready and immediate acceptance of every new invention which comes forward, and which would naturally operate with greater force in proportion as the invention is original; and without, on the other hand, recklessly assigning the delay to official obtuseness, we may observe that Captain Moncrieff's invention is sufficiently important to have merited recognition some time ago, and fully to warrant all that is being said about it now. For it is to be noticed at the outset that the invention is not by any means comprised in the expression "a more gun-carriage." That is exactly what the Moncrieff battery is not. It is a battery—a system—a fortification in itself. The carriage is but the material application of the system. To make this clear, we will endeavor in a few words as possible to explain what the invention is designed to effect. The simplest and most primitive form of defense is, we need hardly say, a parapet or earth, or sand, or natural materials. Given such a parapet, the question straightway arises, how shall it be applied to the protection of men and guns? In the case of riflemen there is no difficulty. The soldier remains behind the parapet until he has loaded his rifle and is ready to fire, when he rises up, discharges his piece, exposing himself for a moment, and at once retreats behind the parapet again. This is simple enough, and this is the natural order of defense. The parapet is a fixed shield, from behind which the defender appears only momentarily to strike a blow, exposing him as little as possible. In the case of a gun, however, the problem is less easy of solution. It has not hitherto been found practicable to raise and lower guns weighing many hundredweight or tons as handily and readily as rifles. So the guns have been fixed in position to fire either through the parapet or over it. The first of these systems gives us the embrasure; the second gives us the barbette battery—each with its objections and its advantages. The embrasure obviously constitutes in itself an unprotected point. It is a breach in the continuity of defense, affording a ready means for the enemy's fire, and furnishing a ready means for shot and shell. But this is not all. The embrasure necessarily restricts greatly the lateral range of the guns, which can only deliver their fire within the angle defined by the splay of its sides. Again, an embrasure is easily destroyed. The breach already commenced is greatly widened by a few well-directed hostile projectiles; even the concussive effect of its own gun, and the gradual deterioration due to rain and weather, in time accomplishes what the enemy may fail to achieve. To meet this last class of objections, and in view of the increasing range, accuracy, and power of rifled ordnance, it has become necessary of late years to supplement the weakness of the primitive earth opening, or the modified weakness of the reveted embrasure, with a shield of some sort. And in an iron age, iron shields naturally presented themselves as a most efficient means of defense. Thus the Gibraltars and Millwall Shelds, for example, were designed to close the embrasure, leaving only an opening for the gun to fire through. This, the latest and best form of embrasure, remains, however, an embrasure still—an iron instead of an earthen one. But until the introduction of Moncrieff's system this iron embrasure promised to present the most familiar type of defense. The barbette system consists in raising the gun permanently above the parapet over which it is to fire. By this arrangement the characteristic disadvantage of the embrasure is got rid of. The guns have free lateral play, the parapet is unbroken, and the infantry men behind it are securely protected. But these advantages are obtained at the expense of the gun and the men who have to serve it, for the guns and gunners are scarcely protected at all. Raised above the parapet, they furnish fair marks for the enemy. And so accurate is the fire of modern ordnance that it is suddenly and unexpectedly apparent out of the ground where no defenses are known to exist. The absence of any horizontal strain due to recoil removes the necessity for expensive solid foundations for the platform, in addition to rendering practicable that application of a carriage on rails of which we have spoken. In point of economy the system presents much advantages; costly iron shields or still costlier couplons will in certain positions be no longer needed. And, owing to the command and free lateral range of the guns mounted in this way, one "Moncrieff" gun would be equal to at least three firing through embrasures. When gun pits are used it would be unnecessary to make them before the actual occasion arose, and thus the plan of a great part of our fortifications would be kept secret, and all the expenses of repair avoided. All that would be necessary would be to decide where guns should be placed in ease of need, and to keep a supply of these carriages ready against any emergency. The invention promises to effect a considerable and economical revolution in the science of defense—economical, whether we consider it in regard to the nature of the parapet, the number of guns required, the cost of the defensive and mechanical appliances, and the saving of life; while it must add greatly to the efficiency of the defense, and give it an advantage over the attack which to a defensive power like England can hardly be exaggerated.

loading, gun, carriage, counterweight, and elevators being completely hidden from the enemy. It is the rifle over again. Up to fire; down to load. When the loading is accomplished the catch is released, the superior weight of the counterweight brings it down and raises the gun into the firing position, whence, after delivering its fire, it again retreats. It will, perhaps, be possible for our readers to gather from this rough general description a fair notion of the main features of the invention. For fuller details they must turn to other sources. Next to the bold but simple conception of treating a huge gun as though it were a rifle, what is most to be admired is the ingenious way in which this conception has been carried out. The end is accomplished without having resorted to any new force or elaborate mechanical device. All that is done is to utilize a force which had hitherto been not only useless, but absolutely hurtful. The force of recoil has always been a great bugbear with artillerists. It has been a destructive, troublesome force, to be got rid of somehow—to be checked by breaks, and buffers, and friction surfaces, to be absorbed by great weight in the gun, by great strength in the carriage, and by stout pivots, and racers, and platforms. But always it has been an agent potent for evil, not for good—one of which artillerists would gladly be quit. This force Captain Moncrieff has converted into a useful ally, and coaxed into doing invaluable service. He makes it the muscle of his system. It carries down the gun after firing, and, stored up in the counterweight, it raises the gun after loading. No expression better describes what Captain Moncrieff has done than one which he himself used in a lecture some years ago at the Royal United Service Institution. He said that he "set one elephant to tame another." There is something exceedingly beautiful and philosophical in this contrivance; and none the less credit is due to Captain Moncrieff because it seems, now that it has been accomplished, almost self-evident. Inventors out of work must, one would think, be tearing their hair at the thought of how great and obvious an opportunity they have let slip. But it has been done at last, and that with a perfect and careful adjustment of constructive detail, that the most complete and remarkable success has attended the first trials. Speaking broadly, we may say that in the course of the trials which have this summer and autumn been made with a 60-ton gun, mounted in this way, and giving, with elevators, counterweight, and carriage, a total moving mass of twenty-two tons, no hitch worth mentioning has occurred. The working of the system has proved in all respects admirably satisfactory, far more so than its most sanguine supporters could have expected. The gun has shot accurately; the carriage has worked smoothly; it has proved rapid in operation and surprisingly easy to work, so easy, indeed, that on one occasion a detachment of three men worked the gun and fired five rounds at a moving object with fair rapidity. With larger detachments (ten men and a non-commissioned officer) and a little more experience, a rate of fire of one shot in a minute and three seconds has been attained. The carriage has been covered with sand and dirt, and has still worked satisfactorily. The reflecting sight, by means of which the gun can be laid without exposing a single man, has answered well. And although the trials are not yet completed, but little remains to be done, if anything, to establish the invention as an accomplished success. Even to glance at the many applications of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can be employed. The gradual deterioration of the system and its remarkable advantages would furnish matter for a separate article. But we must notice as briefly as possible the main advantages which will accrue from its adoption. In the first place, the protection which it affords seems all that is to be desired, and very much more than until lately appeared to be attainable. Not a man need be exposed, and the gun itself only appears above the parapet for the few moments necessary to enable it to be laid and deliver its fire. The parapet may be as thick as is thought necessary, and that most efficient of all materials, earth, can